Population Diversity in Victoria: 2016 Census

Local Government Areas

VICTORIA
State Government

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Source of data in this publication

Australian Bureau of Statistics, Census of Population and Housing, 2016, 2011 and 2006.

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NOTES ON THE DATA

These notes relate to this report and other census publications undertaken by the Multicultural Affairs and Social Cohesion Division, Department of Premier and Cabinet, Victoria, and detail some important considerations regarding the classifications used and comparability issues between Census years. For more general information about what is collected in the Census and the meaning of various categories, please see the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) *Census Dictionary, 2016*, Catalogue No. 2901.0 on the ABS Website www.abs.gov.au, which also contains the other publications mentioned in these notes.

Confidentiality and Introduced Random Error

Many classifications used in ABS statistics have an uneven distribution of data throughout their categories. For example, the number of people who are Anglican or born in Italy is quite large (3,101,185 and 174,042 respectively in 2016), while the number of people who are Buddhist or born in Chile (563,674 and 26,086 respectively in 2016), is relatively small. When religion is cross-classified with country of birth, the number in the table cell who are Anglican and who were born in Italy could be small, and the number of Buddhists born in Chile even smaller. These small numbers increase the risk of identifying individuals in the statistics.

Even when variables are more evenly distributed in the classifications, the problem still occurs. The more detailed the classifications, and the more of them that are applied in constructing a table, the greater the incidence of very small cells.

Care is taken in the specification of tables to minimise the risk of identifying individuals. In addition, a technique has been developed to randomly adjust cell values. Random adjustment of the data is considered to be the most satisfactory technique for avoiding the release of identifiable Census data. When the technique is applied, all cells are slightly adjusted to prevent any identifiable data being exposed. These adjustments result in small introduced random errors. However, the information value of the table as a whole is not impaired. The technique allows very large tables to be produced even though they contain numbers of very small cells.

The counts and totals in summary tables are subjected to small adjustments. These adjustments may cause the sum of rows or columns to differ by small amounts from table totals. The counts are adjusted independently in a controlled manner, so the same information is adjusted by the same amount. However, tables at higher geographic levels may not be equal to the sum of the tables for the component geographic units.

It is not possible to determine which individual figures have been affected by random error adjustments, but the small variance which may be associated with derived totals can, for the most part, be ignored.

No reliance should be placed on small cells as they are impacted by random adjustment, respondent and processing errors.

Many different classifications are used in Census tables and the tables are produced for a variety of geographical areas. The effect of the introduced random error is minimised if the statistic required is found direct from a tabulation rather than from aggregating more finely classified data. Similarly, rather than aggregating data from small areas to obtain statistics about a larger standard geographic area, published data for the larger area should be used wherever possible.

When calculating proportions, percentages or ratios from cross-classified or small area tables, the random error introduced can be ignored except when very small cells are involved, in which case the impact on percentages and ratios can be significant.

Local Government Areas and new ABS Geography

The Australian Standard Geographical Classification (ASGC) has being replaced by the *Australian Statistical Geography Standard (ASGS) 2017*, Catalogue No.1270.0.55.003 as the ABS's new geographical framework. The ASGS was first introduced in 2011 and was used for release of data from the 2016 Census of Population and Housing; 2016 Census data will not be available on ASGC Statistical Local Areas (SLAs).

The Local Government Area (LGA) is part of the Non-ABS Structure of the ASGS and the ABS will continue to support LGAs with the data it currently provides. There were no boundary changes between LGAs in Victoria between 2011 and 2016.

Census variables

The following describes Census topics or variables presented in Census publications undertaken by the Multicultural Affairs and Social Cohesion Division, Department of Premier and Cabinet, Victoria. Not all variables may be presented in this publication.

Country of Birth of Person

This variable indicates in which country a person was born and is coded using the *Standard Australian Classification of Countries (SACC), 2016*, Catalogue No. 1269.0. Change of names of countries between censuses should be noted when making time series comparisons. Examples are provided on the next page.

Some country name changes from 2011 to 2016:

2011	2016
Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (FYROM)	The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia
Myanmar, The Republic of the Union of	Myanmar
Bolivia, Plurinational State of	Bolivia
Venezuela, Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela	Venezuela

Indigenous Status

This provides responses of persons who identified themselves as being of Australian Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander origin.

Year of Arrival

This variable states, for persons born overseas, the year they first arrived in Australia, with the intention of staying for at least one year. The variable Country of Birth of Person is the basis for determining if a person was born in Australia or overseas. The year 2016 refers to the period from 1st January 2016 to 9th August 2016 only.

Ancestry

Ancestry is coded using the *Australian Standard Classification of Cultural and Ethnic Groups (ASCCEG), 2016*, Catalogue No.1249.0. There are two ancestry variables, First and Second Response, because respondents to the Census are asked to report up to two ancestries. Respondents do not have the option of ranking their answers to the ancestry question, so where a respondent reports two ancestries, those two ancestries have equal standing. The two ancestry variables are combined into one variable Ancestry Multi-Response, or Total Responses as used in this publication.

Age

This contains a person's age, and is collected for each person. Age is calculated from date of birth, however if this is not provided, stated age will be used. If neither is provided, age is imputed.

Language Spoken at Home

This records responses to the Census question "Does the person speak a language other than English at home?", and is coded using the *Australian Standard Classification of Languages (ASCL), 2016*, Catalogue No. 1267.0. This question allows for one answer only.

Proficiency in Spoken English

This variable classifies their self-assessed proficiency in spoken English for each person who speaks a language other than English at home.

Religious Affiliation

Religions are coded using the *Australian Standard Classification of Religions Groups (ASCRG), 2016*, Catalogue No. 1266.0. The variable records a person's religious affiliation. Answering this Census question is optional.

Dwelling Internet Connection

This variable records whether any member of the household accesses the internet from the dwelling, through a desktop/laptop computer, mobile or smart phone, tablet, music or video player, gaming console, smart TV or any other devices. It also includes accessing through any type of connection, for example, ADSL, fibre, cable, wireless, satellite and mobile broadband (3G/4G).

Level of Highest Educational Attainment

This variable combines "Non-School Qualification: Level of Education" and "Highest Year of School Completed" to produce a single measure of a person's overall level of educational attainment, whether it be a school or non-school qualification.

Labour Force Status

This variable records, for the week prior to Census night, a person's labour force status. The category, "Employed, away from work" also includes persons who stated they worked but who did not state their number of hours worked.

Occupation

Occupation is coded using the *Australian and New Zealand Standard Classification of Occupations (ANZSCO), 2013*, Version 1.2, Catalogue No. 1220.0. The Occupation code assigned to a response is based on the occupation title and tasks of the main job held during the week prior to Census night.

Industry of Employment

Industry of Employment is coded using the *Australian and New Zealand Standard Industrial Classification (ANZSIC), 2006* Revision 2.0, Catalogue No. 1292.0.

Voluntary Work

This variable records people who spent time doing unpaid voluntary work through an organisation or group, in the twelve months prior to Census Night. It excludes work done as part of paid employment; if main reason is to qualify for Government benefit, obtain an educational qualification or due to a community work order: and in a family business.

Total Personal Income (Weekly)

This indicates the total income that the person usually receives each week.

Tenure Type

This describes whether a dwelling is owned, being purchased or rented. Dwellings occupied under a life tenure scheme can be considered as being owned.

Family Composition

Family Composition classifies families into different types. When classifying families into different types, information about temporarily absent family members is used.

No provision has been made in Family Composition to classify family members outside the family nucleus. For example, in a family which contains a couple and their dependent children, plus a parent of one of the couple, the latter would be recorded as an “Other related individual”. Identification of such persons within a family is done by means of “Relationship in household” data.

Citizenship

This records whether a person has Australian citizenship.

Core Activity Need for Assistance

This measures the number of people with a profound or severe disability. People with a profound or severe disability are defined as those people needing help or assistance in one or more of the three core activity areas of self-care, mobility and communication because of a disability, long term health condition (lasting six months or more) or old age.

Usual Address 5 years ago

This is derived from the mark box answer to the question on the 2016 Census form which asks, “Where did the person usually live five years ago (at 9 August 2011)?”. This variable shows migration patterns when used with the “Usual Address Census Night Indicator”, “Usual Address One Year Ago Indicator” and “Place of usual residence” data.

Abbreviations

Category names have been shortened where they do not fit within the columns or rows in some tables. The commonly used abbreviations include:

nfd	Not further defined
nec	Not elsewhere classified
na	Not available or Not applicable
Alia	Australia
Vic	Victoria
COB	Country of birth
OSB	Overseas-born
LOTE	Language other than English
LGA	Local Government Area
MESC	Main English-speaking Countries
NMESC	Non-Main English-speaking Countries